



PUBLISHED DAILY & TRI-WEEKLY BY
EDGAR SNOWDEN.

TUESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 25, 1881.

The decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, yesterday in the Virginia case, effectually disposes of all schemes for the forcible readjustment of the Virginia State debt, and takes the wind completely out of the Mahone movement.

The future intentions of the republicans are as unknown to us as Senator Bruce says they are to him, but present appearances certainly indicate a republican opposition to President (C. C.) Garfield's administration as great as that against which Mr. Hayes has had to contend, and one that will be prosecuted even more vigorously because it will be more stoutly rallied. Mr. Blaine and the West want the latter to have the Treasury department, but Mr. Conkling says New York must have it, or the next administration will have him to fight, and Mr. Cameron says that in such a fight Pennsylvania will take the part of her neighboring State. The President's chief is therefore in a dilemma. For him to please his devoted Secretary of State will be to offend Messrs. Conkling and Cameron and their numerous followers, but if he obeys the supercilious demands of the latter he will drive from his support such powerful friends as Mr. Blaine and the Western men. It looks as though there will be a fight either way, and as he naturally desires a decision the relative strength of the two factions will decide his course.

The remarkable course Senator Bruce has pursued since his election, the talk of each of his subalterns as our Washington correspondent has met in that city, and the assurance of his Richmond and Washington organs, indicate us at one time to doubt his fidelity to the great national conservative party of the country, the party that whatever the may be said of it, has invariably stood between his State, his people and the whole South, and the injury that radical hate would have inflicted upon them. But to have continued to entertain the doubt would have inflicted a doubt of his common sense, and that is precluded by the history of his whole life previous to the time he entered on his present wonderful career. Our duty, therefore, of his loyalty to the national conservative party was evanescent, for granting him possession of honest convictions upon the subjects of the State debt and certain alterations in the laws and policy of the State that he deems will be conducive to her welfare, the dictates of ordinary reason would prevent him from being anything else. Then, the power, of which he is said to be so much enamored, can be obtained in no other way. For him to assist the republicans in their effort to reorganize the Senate would effectually destroy his influence at home and increase it to an appreciable extent in Washington. As he says he is "not only a democrat, but a southern man, and a Virginian," the wise course for him to pursue in order to be powerful in the Senate is to vote so as to keep the organization of that body in the control of the democrats, but to vote independently upon all questions of national policy and importance. For him to signalize his entrance into the Senate by voting to put its organization into the hands of the republicans would reduce him at once to the insignificant condition of a senatorial apoplexy, for every measure that would tend to his individual advantage, and the confirmation of every appointment he might receive, would be defeated by the united action of the thirty seven good and true democrats who will have seats there and whose recent action would legitimately incur.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

A genuine case of small pox has appeared in Baltimore.

On Saturday night last the wife of Elise Cummings, colored, living near Craven, N. J., gave birth to four boys.

The New Jersey Democratic legislative caucus yesterday nominated the Hon. Theodore F. Randolph, the present incumbent, for the United States Senate.

Justice C. Ramsey, brother of the Secretary of War, was found dead in his bed in St. Paul, Minn., yesterday, having shot himself with a pistol. He was a great sufferer from kidney disease.

The store of W. W. Bardsley, corner of Seventh and K streets, Washington, was entered last night and robbed of fifty seven pieces of silk and a lot of ladies' dresses, valued at \$5,000. The thieves effected an entrance at the Seventh street door, and were very quiet in their operations. An old pair of cast-off pants were found in the store, but the detectives believe this was merely done for a blind. Otherwise there was no clue to the thieves.

About five inches of snow fell at Mobile, Ala., Sunday night. Many valuable trees were broken by the weight of the snow. About four inches of snow fell in New Orleans, being the heaviest since 1852. Augusta, Ga., had the heaviest snow fall yesterday ever known there, but the snow melted almost as fast as it fell. Advice from the interior of South Carolina, report the heaviest snowfall in fifty years. In Wilmington, N. C., about three inches of snow fell.

CONFIDING HEIRS TO THE JENNINGS ESTATE. Notwithstanding the recent adverse decision of the English Court of Appeals in a recent case, Morgan's Heirs, in Camden, was well filled Friday with claimants to the great Jennings estate. They were assembled to hear a report from Mr. Samuel Cook, their American delegate to England. The latter repeated the encouraging statements which he had made at former meetings. The money—some \$165,000, 000—was, he said, all safe in the Bank of England, the evidences of debt and all the genealogies had been completed, the cash necessary for the prosecution of the claim was to be had, and the English attorneys were preparing their petition to the Chancery and expected soon to bring the question to an issue. Upon this the assembled heirs decided to send Mr. Cook back to England to remain for an unlimited time. —*Phil. Record*

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette, Washington, D. C., Jan. 25, 1881.

As an example of the extent to which the custom of contesting congressional elections is carried on by the republicans in the South, it may be stated that Mr. Money says the seat of every democrat except himself from his State, Mississippi, in the next House, is contested, and that his would be but for the fact that no republican ran in his district.

Private intelligence from Richmond is to the effect that one of the prominent and able counsel employed in the W. & O. R. R. case now before the Court of Appeals there, thinks that ex-President McKim will be allowed his claim, which amounts to about four thousand dollars, but that McComb will win in the end, and that neither thinks the decree of the Court below will be sustained in all points. It would seem, therefore, that the road must soon be sold. When that is done it is understood, it will be produced immediately as far as Berryville, where it will tap the Shenandoah Valley railroad.

Among the appointments sent to the Senate yesterday were those of C. H. Waple and W. H. Comery, to be paymasters in the army, with the rank of major. There were several appointments in the army who were applicants for promotion, but Mr. Hayes applied his remarkable interpretation of his civil service reform circular to the case, and made both appointments from civil life.

Among the presidential appointments yesterday was that of W. H. Fox to be postmaster at Hartford, Connecticut. The appointee was well known in Alexandria, during and soon after the war.

The only affair of interest that occurred in the Senate during the morning hour to day, was a short speech by Mr. Lamar, in favor of taking up Mr. Logan's bill for putting Gen. Grant on the retired list of the army, in which he complimented Gen. Grant in the highest degree and announced his intention of voting for the bill when it should come up, and said that he was in favor of writing a eulogy on Gen. Grant's name on the rolls of the government, the word, *conditus*. The motion to take up the bill was defeated by a vote of 25 to 28. Messrs. Lamar and Davis, of Illinois, voting with all the republicans in the affirmative. Mr. McPherson, who voted yesterday for taking up the bill did so for the purpose of killing it at once.

There were numerous rumors floating about the Capitol this morning, all of which, however, were denied, to the effect that Mr. Taylor, a member of the present House, but who was defeated for the next Congress, had been elected U. S. Senator from Tennessee. Mr. Taylor is a very young man having only reached the senatorial age last July. It is said that he was elected to the House by giving his audience when making his canvass the choice of a speech or a tune on the fiddle, which he plays like the Arkansas Traveller, and that like sensible men, most of them chose the latter.

The Finance Committee of the Senate to-day heard Secretary Sherman on the Refunding bill. He is in favor of a five twenty bond with discretion to the Secretary of the Treasury to refund at any time under three and a half per cent. He expressed the belief that he could float temporary certificates at three per cent.

Governor Foster, of Ohio, is here to-day, the guest of Mr. Blaine. It is reported that he came to call himself out of the Garfield Cabinet, as many of the other Western States, especially Indiana, have claims superior to that State.

Senator Withers, Chairman of the Conference Committee on the free bridge across the Potomac, will call a meeting of that committee to-morrow.

The confirmation of the appointments of Dr. Gilmer to be postmaster at Richmond, and Mr. Gray to be Collector of Customs at Alexandria still hang in the Senate, in consequence, as previously stated in this correspondence, of all-god doubts of reputation in the appointees. The last public expression of Gen. Mahone on his party affiliation in the next Senate is to the effect that people always go to the polls before they vote, and that if any man, woman or child knew how he would vote he would flee the country.

The House Commerce Committee did not take up the Potomac bill at their meeting this morning, but a bill for the purpose was introduced in the House yesterday.

Senator Hill says he believes the republicans will have an extra session if they can throw the blame of one upon the democrats. Representative Atkins says if there is to be occasion for an extra session it will be made by the Senate, as the House will complete all its necessary business.

Commissioner Morgan says the Appropriations Committee has out the District bill at \$12,000 from the jail and added that sum to the Insane Asylum, and that though the revenue of the District has increased \$200,000, the appropriation has been decreased \$100,000, which will seriously cripple the street improvement.

The republicans to-day seem to have abandoned the idea of controlling the next Senate. Senator Pendleton made quite a long speech in the Senate to-day in favor of the bill for making citizens of Indians and giving them lands in reversion. He was followed by Mr. Vest, who was considered one of the best debaters in the Senate.

The House Judiciary Committee to-day decided that the Senate had the right to originate bills for appropriating revenue though not for raising it.

Justice Swaine, of the Supreme Court, headed his resignation to Mr. Hayes to-day. It is understood that Mr. Herford, Senator from West Virginia, owes his recent defeat, as Mr. Thurman does his, to the railroad interest. His opponent lost to his support of the Thurman railroad bill, and the roads are like people who treasure up what they suppose to be wrongs. Mr. Padlock owes his defeat to his overweening Granitism.

It is now confidently expected that Jay Gould will buy the A. M. & O. R. R. when it is sold on one to the proximo. If this expectation be realized Norfolk will be the eastern terminus of a great Southern trans continental railroad, and will soon be one of the largest as it is now one of the most prosperous cities in the South.

The new Senator-elect from West Virginia, it is understood, like the two sitting Senators, is in favor of his State paying its just share of the Virginia debt, but it is also understood that none of them nor anybody else in West Virginia thinks that one-third is a just share, or is in favor of paying so large a proportion.

Mr. Nicholson, democratic member of the House from the district of Virginia, thinks that the recent meetings of the negroes in Alexandria and Lynchburg, at which they declared their intention of supporting the Mahone movement in preference to a straight republican ticket, will amount to nothing, and that Mahone will not carry enough of them to defeat the regular republican State ticket next fall, provided any considerable number of democrats continue their allegiance to the General.

MISERY IN A CELLAR.—A peculiarly distressing case was disclosed on an inquest held by the Coroner yesterday on the body of Margaret Boyle, 34 years of age, who died suddenly of heart disease on Thursday. This woman and her husband and four children lived in the cellar of the house at the corner of Twenty-fourth and Locust streets. In this dark, damp and poorly ventilated underground apartment (thirteen people lived by day and by night. It was learned that the father and mother were both addicted to the use of strong drink. —*Phil. Record*

The Virginia Tax Case.

The decision of the U. S. Supreme Court, rendered yesterday through Justice Field, in the case of Hertzman vs. Greenhow, Treasurer of the city of Richmond, pronouncing unconstitutional the law of the Virginia Legislature of 1876, which imposes a tax on the corpus of the Virginia bonds, funded in 1871, and prohibits tax collectors from receiving the interest coupons of such bonds in payment of taxes without first deducting from them the amount of the State tax on the bonds, is the principal theme of discussion at the capital. The court held that the act in question, imposing such a tax and prohibiting the reception of the coupons at their full value in payment of taxes, is unconstitutional and void, because it impairs the obligation of a contract made between the State and its creditors, and which is contrary to public faith and public policy. There was a large attendance in the court room in expectation of the rendering of the opinion, which was given shortly after one o'clock. Justice Field read the opinion in a clear and distinct voice, and the greatest attention was paid to what he said. Soon after he had concluded the last sentence there was something of a rush toward the door, and in less than ten seconds afterwards the telegraph offices in the lobbies of the Capitol were besieged by crowds, who sent out the news to all parts of the country. While the decision was a very important one financially, what gives it additional interest is the influence it will exert on Virginia politics. It is generally accepted that it is a disastrous blow for the republicans. The Virginia men who oppose Mahone and his policy think that this will effectually put a stop to any legislation as was demanded and executed by the readjusters, and that under the judgment of the Supreme Court the Mahone party will dissolve. Senator Johnston said that the decision will necessarily check any legislation looking to a forcible adjustment of the Virginia State debt. "Mahone's mission," he said, "is conceived by myself and his followers in regard to the readjustment of the debt, is ended. Hereafter the legislative bodies of Virginia will not attempt to make a settlement of the debt without the consent of the creditors, as was designed by the readjusters' party." He believed that the result of the decision would be to strengthen the credit of the State and prepare the way for an amicable settlement between the State and the bondholders. Other representatives of Virginia were likewise of the opinion that the decision takes from the readjusters their power for further mischief and future tinkering with the State debt. The Court dwells with emphasis on the obligation of a State to its creditors, and the danger of States repudiating such contracts. In giving their opinion, that they have not the slightest doubt as to the unconstitutionality of such laws as those of 1876, they comment upon the fact that the State will be better situated if such sentiments do not prevail.

The Court lays it down clearly and unmistakably that a State has not the right to disregard its obligations and violate a solemn contract which it has made with others.

There is considerable curiosity to know what Gen. Mahone now proposes to do. It is not expected that he will leave the party of which he is the head, and allow it to disintegrate. He will continue his fight as before, and will not abandon it until so badly whipped that he will be forced to withdraw from it.

Nihilist Internal Machines.

The London Times of January 9 says: An extraordinary story of Nihilist negotiations with a Birmingham mechanic for the manufacture of infernal machines for employment against the Emperor of Russia lately came to the knowledge of the Birmingham police. Some months back an operative clockmaker, named Hutchinson, wrote to Major Bond, the local chief of police, stating that he was in fear for his life, owing to a rupture between himself and a certain Nihilist agent, for whom he had undertaken to do work, and asking for the protection of the police.

To the detective who was sent to interview him, he stated that in April, 1879, he was in London on business, and in a restaurant in Cheapside he met with two strangers, with whom he entered into conversation. One of the men was a Russian and the other a German. The same evening, in the course of conversation, Hutchinson happened to state that he was a clockmaker, and showed the men some of his patterns. The men then asked him to build work to do, and in reply to his refusal to do so, the strangers produced some rough designs.

On announcing his readiness to perform the work, Hutchinson was told that he was to assist in the preparation of infernal machines. One machine had to be arranged so that it could be fixed under the ground a little way, and from the piece where the "crutch" was it could cover the whole of the street, and a little hole had to be constructed by which a small lead pipe could be attached, and through this pipe a wire had to be carried. A second machine was to have sharp hooks affixed to drive into the bottom of a railway carriage, the clockwork movement being connected with the large axle, so that, from one minute to forty-eight or more, the carriage would be so constructed that it could be put under a garden wall or any pathway. This contrivance was to be worked with very thin wires. Another machine was a dynamite bomb, to be placed under the seat of a private carriage, and the last machine sketched out by the conspirators was to be of a miniature size, so that it might be easily placed within a bouquet. A thirty-hour movement was required, similar to that found in an American alarm clock, and the charge might either be of nitro-glycerine or dynamite.

The men told Hutchinson, in an attempt to be made to wreck the royal train on its journey to Moscow. Hutchinson asked for an interview in a week's time at New Street railway station, Birmingham. They met accordingly to appointment, and adjourned to a neighboring coffee house, where Hutchinson was asked to sign an agreement, binding him to the strictest secrecy on penalty of death, and promising £100 on completion of the work.

Hutchinson states that at the coffee house he told the men he had made up his mind not to undertake the work, and despite their persuasions and threats, he refused to do so. Hutchinson stated he was continually apprehensive of Nihilist violence. He was unable to sleep at night, and was afraid to disclose his secret. After a long period of suspense he decided to write an anonymous letter to the Russian Embassy, informing them of the projected attempt, which was duly made, to blow up the Emperor's train. The communication led to a correspondence between Hutchinson and the Embassy, and ultimately an attaché was sent down to see him. Hutchinson was subsequently taken to London and had an interview with the Russian Ambassador, to whom he gave a minute description of the conspirators and their machines. Nothing has since been heard of the two foreigners, but Hutchinson is still apprehensive of their vengeance.

THE ICE IN THE BATHAMARK BROKEN UP after the long freeze, and the effect is a transformation scene, unusual in this latitude. The river has been frozen solid for several weeks, and with the accumulation of snow, to a depth of about eighteen inches. The breaking up was looked forward to with some apprehension, but the ice is moving so gradually that though backed up a little the "flood" there is no fear of any serious damage. Friday evening it commenced to melt, and the ice was falling fast, so that unless a sudden Polar Wave comes down upon us the channel will be open for the steamers and all other boats. The river scenery just now is novel and picturesque; the ice in great blocks, piled up against the banks of the island and covering the low grounds of the Bedford shore, broken jagged, glittering masses of solid cold or frozen snow, and discolored, except when touched by the sunlight, and soon to melt away and disappear. —*Fredericksburg News.*

FOREIGN NEWS.

A law has been set in and the ice in the Thames is disappearing rapidly.

Prince Gortchakoff, the Russian ambassador, has retired from public affairs.

The Pope and Cardinal Jacobini, papal secretary of state, strongly favor a conciliatory policy on the part of the church toward Belgium.

The Greek ministry is now accused of incapacity, and an attack upon it is expected when the Parliament meets.

Austria has been warned of the purpose of the Italian irredentists under Menotti Garibaldi to invade the Austrian Tyrol in the coming spring.

The Albanian League have made overtures for an alliance with Turkey in case that country and Greece go to war, but accompany their proposals by the statement that unless complete autonomy is granted Albania she will join the cause of Greece.

Mr. Forster, Secretary of State for Ireland, yesterday introduced the Quercion bill in the British House of Commons. It was met with much opposition, and a long debate ensued. It provides for the suspension of the habeas corpus, and is more stringent than the Pease Preservation act, which expired on the first of the year.

Justice Fitzgerald commenced his charge to the jury in the state trials at Dublin yesterday. He alluded to the fair manner in which the trials had been conducted by both sides; paid a tribute to the American people in denying statements which had been made that the agitators were enemies that had been hatched in this country. Ireland denounced American ideas who were in Ireland for the purpose of sowing dissensions and making trouble. The charge will be continued to-day. Mr. Perrell was present and was cheered by the crowd. The social panic in Ireland has in a great degree subsided, outrages having become less frequent. Anti-republican meetings are to be held in the large towns in England. A Persian plot to raid on the manufacturers of arms at Birmingham, England, is suspected.

A GREAT MULE MARKET.

The mule season has fairly begun, but is far from being as active as the season was last year. There are several drawbacks. Cotton planters have not commenced to get ready for their ploughing. The cold weather prevailing has set them back, and besides they bought largely last year and will not need so many this year. The export demand is very small. The demand from the East and North is not very large. On all their ventures they made money, prices kept on advancing and the demand was very urgent, and this made speculators somewhat reckless. Last summer and fall they began buying and contracting for January and February of 1881, and paid pretty good prices. Now country shippers and speculators find that their anticipations are not being realized, and from the present outlook it is not unlikely that they will lose money. The supply cut in the country is large and is slowly waiting an increased demand in this city. There are now several large dealers in the city watching the market, and from their conversation it is inferred that the majority of speculators entertain a very gloomy view of the market. One prominent mule shipper, who has over a thousand head corralled up in an interior county in Missouri remarked to a Republican reporter, "I have a large bunch, and if anybody will pay me first cost and the feed I will let him have the mules and take off \$3,000 besides, and I know others who will take off a percentage if they can get back their money only." Mr. William P. Crosswhite, a well known feeder, was also interviewed by the reporter and asked why had the receipts fallen off here. The total receipts of horses and mules from January 1 to the 19th inclusive, were only 2,512 head, while for the corresponding thirteen days in 1880 the receipts were 6,618 head, or more than three times as many as in 1881. "Well, you see," said Mr. Crosswhite, "the demand for mules is small and prices fluctuating and not very high at that, and thus keep back the supply. Were the demand as large as last January the receipts would be as liberal. Let the announcement go out that a liberal inquiry has sprung up and prices are fair, why, the run of mules would be so large that half of them could not be cared for at the pens and stables. As everybody knows, this is the largest market in the world, and it is here that buyers from all parts of the habitable globe gather for the purchase of horses and mules." —*St. Louis Republican.*

Letter from Louisa.

(Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.)

LOUISA, O. H., Va., Jan. 24, 1881.—After a month's very bad weather of snow, hail, rain and sleet, we had a beautiful day of sunshine and pleasant weather. More than half of the snow has melted, and the mud and slush makes traveling very disagreeable.

There were very few people at our last county court, and very little business done.

Major B. F. Trice, bought the Louisa Hotel several years ago with the sole right of selling liquor, in the corporation. A short time ago Robert Hinds, (colored), purchased the property on the other side of the street and opened a bar room. A suit will be brought against Hinds next Circuit Court, when a lively contest is expected.

There are a great many lawyers in this place and more are coming to study law under some of the older lawyers, yet our local editor says, "litigation is on the decline, and the people of the county find it more profitable and interesting to subscribe to the county paper."

The board of supervisors have offered a reward of \$100 for the boy, James Hiter, who burned the Louisa jail and made his escape a few weeks ago.

Mr. Ernest Leo Bolliger, of Louisa, is sojourning in Baltimore for a few months. B.

FATAL LEAD.—A glimpse of the other side

of New York's social life and some of the monstrous evils that pervade it was given on Saturday last, when the death of Mary Summers was investigated. She had lived for sometime with a man named William Lantry, who has long borne an ill character, and the neighbors knew that their relations were illicit, and that in the apartments occupied by them was also living the man's legal wife. At 3 o'clock a. m. Saturday a sudden hubbub was heard in Lantry's room, and presently his cry of "My God, Mary has killed herself," startled his neighbors. Soon it was discovered that the man's paramour, Mary Summers, was lying dying in the yard, the pavement of which was despoiled with her blood. She had thrown herself from the window, and coming to the ground head foremost, had split her skull open. When some of the denizens of the house went below they found her breathing heavily, with her face covered with blood and her whole appearance most ghastly. They lifted her up to carry her to her room, but on the way she expired in their arms. From testimony adduced, it appeared that Mary was prompted to her rash act by a fit of jealousy.

TWENTY EIGHT DAYS FAST.—Mr. Edgar

Balinger of this neighborhood lost a "son" on the 20th of December, the day the big snow fell, and she was found under a snow drift, near the side of the road, on Monday last, the 17th, apparently in good health—but very much reduced in flesh. This fasting of the "boy" beats Dr. Tanner. Dr. Tanner had every comfort, but this boy had none, and fasted 28 days.

Round Hill, Va., Jan. 21st, 1881.

—*Leesburg Washingtonian.*

CONGRESSIONAL.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 25, 1881.

SENATE.

Mr. Lamar, from the Judiciary Committee, reported favorably, with an amendment, House bill to divide the State of Louisiana into two judicial districts.

Mr. Johnston, from the select committee to which was referred the various bills on the subject of pleuro-pneumonia and other diseases of cattle, by direction of the committee, reported a bill for the establishment of a bureau of animal industry, and asked that the same be printed and recommended to the committee. So ordered.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The Senate amendments to the Military Academy appropriation bill were, on motion of Mr. Forney, of Ala., concurred in.

Mr. Cobb, of Ind., from the Committee on Appropriations, reported back the bill providing for a deficiency in the appropriation for interest on the 3 C5 loan of the District of Columbia for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1881. [It appropriates \$162,169, one half to be paid out of the U. S. Treasury, and one half out of the revenues of the District for the current fiscal year.]

The bill was referred to the Committee of the Whole, there briefly considered, and reported back to the House, when it was passed. On motion of Mr. Starin, of N. Y., the bill was passed appropriating \$30,000 for the erection of a monument at Schuylerville, N. Y., commemorative of the battle of Saratoga.

Mr. King, of Louisiana, gave notice that he would on Wednesday next call up for action the resolutions heretofore reported from the committee on inter-oceanic canal.

The House then, at 12:35, went into Committee of the Whole upon the postoffice appropriation bill.

[COMMUNICATED.]

"Leave thy damnable faces and begin," the suffering, long tried people of Virginia may well say to Gen. Wm. Mahone.

For two months the political sea has been moving, and this scrobbler still continues his grotesque dance in the center, shortly, as it would seem, to be kicked, or at best, to fall off into the mire.

The State cried to her closets for bread, and they gave her a stone. She asked for a statesman, and they gave her a mountebank.

Ever since the formation of the unholy alliance and the advent into power of the new liberal party [scilicet], we suppose, from the remarkable liberality of its promises to its sabbat allies, and its free construction of contracts, the State, which, before the war, stood for political honesty, foremost among her sisters, and which, at its close, might well have said, "All is lost save honor," has been denounced from one end of the country to the other as not only void of common business honesty, but as the center of all corrupt political intrigues. We know that, against the first charge poverty has been pleaded, and whether it be sufficient or insufficient, as a justification, we pass it by. But what is the ground of the latter charge? None other than the efforts of the frox to swell himself out to the size of the ox; that the endeavors of our senatorial acrobat to elevate himself into a sort of Jupiter Tonans, at whose nod Olympus is to tremble and the earth to be shaken.

His first plot was the abortive effort to prevent the nomination of a republican electoral ticket by the Stanton convention, hoping thus, by the union of the readjusters and republicans, to elect his unpledged electoral ticket, which was to throw its vote "where it would do the most good"—to General Mahone and the electors themselves, is the natural inference.

Then it was whispered that our Senator was in close communication with the Grant ring, and that, should the Chicago convention nominate Grant, he would lead the bolt from the solid South and transfer the electoral vote of this State, which our little great Virginian has evidently, from the beginning, believed to be buttoned up in his treacherous pocket, to the Grant column.

Alas! "the best laid plans of mice and men gang a-fog," and so did this. The nation's plummy Dumpty got a fall, but ours is not at all discomfited. Democratic prospects seem bright, and hey! presto! he turns a somersault from the ultra democratic platform of the Jay's convention, bearing towards Governor's Island a Hancock electoral ticket—a truly Grecian gait—meant to destroy and defeat its proffered candidate.

With too great a strain men's patience will give way, and so will the buttons of their breeches pockets, as in this case proved true, for the scrobbler was too abrupt, our Senator came rudely to the ground; his pocket burst open, and the vote of Virginia rolled quietly into the hands of the regulars.

We devoutly hoped we had seen the end of him, but unpropitious Fate ruled otherwise. The organization of the Senate seemed to depend upon a single vote. The National Republican and Richmond Whig, began to exchange banishments, the lion and the lamb lay down together, "mercy and truth met together," righteousness and peace kissed each other. Our scrobbler has leaped back to the eye saw; somewhat the worse for his fall, but still crying in a quavering voice, "Who'll bid."

As was said in the beginning, his position is becoming more and more precarious. The better element of the republicans say the alliance with a repudiator would pay too dear. They are not willing to pay his price. He must throw off his readjuster rags and come to terms with fruits meek for repentance, or, retaining them, fall back into the democratic ranks, not a leader, but a follower. In his present posture he can only excite the ridicule of all honest men, and in the end, be forced to choose the one alternative or the other. "Under which king, Bezzonian, speak or die."

THE METHODIST COUNCIL.—Bishop Simpson

goes to New York to-morrow to preside at the meeting of the Western Section of the Executive Committee of the Methodist Episcopal Council which meets in London in September next. The council is to consist of four hundred members, divided equally among the clergy and laity, and also equally between the Methodists of the Western and Eastern Hemispheres. In this country the two leading Methodist bodies, North and South, are entitled to one hundred and eighty delegates; the three colored Methodist bodies of America will send twenty-eight delegates; the Protestant, Wesleyan, Free and Independent Methodist districts jointly have fourteen delegates; the seven or eight remaining small sects of America, Methodists will be entitled to forty delegates, of whom Canada will claim twenty-two. The American delegates will leave New York on August 6, and the meeting of next week is to make such arrangements as will insure the success of the American representation.

A THRILLING SCENE occurred on the Schuylkill near Philadelphia, on Sunday afternoon. A large cake of ice just above the Fairmount dam broke off from the field on which numbers were skating. All the skaters saw the danger and made haste to escape, except a boy thirteen years old who had no skates, and seemed petrified with fear and unable to move. As the ice was breaking up all around him and falling over his head a man from the adjacent pier waded out and succeeded in bringing the lad ashore amid the shouts of thousands who were looking on with dread at the impending loss of life. When the rescuer reached the boy he was struggling in the water, and another minute would have been carried over the dam.

Thanks.

The ladies of the Union Relief Association acknowledge gratefully the receipt of \$125.00, through Mrs. Wilbur Hall, from the recent entertainment at Armory Hall, for the benefit of the poor of the city. We take this opportunity to say that there are no *donations* or *distinctions* known in the work of the Relief Association, the necessities of the applicant furnish the only requirement demanded, and the amount of aid given being without partiality as to Church membership, and limited only by the ability of the Society. By order of the board, L. U. R.

We, the lady managers of the recent entertainments given at Armory Hall for the benefit of the Alexandria Light Infantry and for the poor, wish to thank the Gazette office and Mr. Bell for their generous aid for the same. Also the Musical Association for their delightful music, which added so much to the enjoyment of the whole. We thank Prof. Heyman, who so unobtrusively and so patiently gave his time and talent in instructing each their part, and so efficiently helped to make the entertainment such a complete success. We thank Mr. Van Auker for the kind loan of his piano, which was considered a great favor by the ladies, and, though not by any means the least, we especially thank the ladies and gentlemen who, by their fine rendition of the operettas, have enabled the Light Infantry and the poor to realize such a handsome sum, that we are sure, will make glad the heart of the soldier boys, and will bring warmth and comfort to the homes of many poor soldiers. We are heartily glad to say that the result of the poor was \$25.00 (two hundred and fifty dollars) which has been equally divided between the Ladies' Union Relief Association and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The Alexandria Light Infantry will acknowledge themselves the receipt of their benefit. THE MANAGERS.

[COMMUNICATED.]

The Fish Question.

It would indeed be a hardship upon the people of our poor old town if the Council, in their wisdom, to night, should pass any law forbidding the sale of fresh-caught fish upon our streets. Why should the whole energies of our Council be concentrated upon to say the least, the most trivial of our business? Must we respectably protest. We had far better give to these gentlemen, hucksters the fish stalls free of rent. The people would save by it in the end, as may be seen by any redoubtable mind. And then again, Council, please be careful, for the fish stalls are in a most precarious position, if I am informed correctly, and for a moment stand the test of law, and we, gentlemen, you will see. Pause! P. Q.

[COMMUNICATED.]

Unusually kind and considerate fathers of our august Council give half dozen men the monopoly of the fish business in Alexandria, and thereby force the good people to pay five cents per pair for shad when otherwise they would be brought to our doors fresh for three cents per pair; and, further, why not convert the market building into stores, and for the "protection of tenants" pass a law forbidding the sale elsewhere of groceries, dry goods, meats, whiskey, and "such." A financial scheme based on the above idea would doubtless be considered by the interested few a "wise and commendable governmental policy." CRACK!

A Card.

Office of the Alexandria Gas Works, Jan. 25, 1881.

A writer over the signature of "Third Ward" complains of the non-lighting of some of the street lamps. The cause of it is that the blowing through the pipes leading to and inside of the lamp condenses and freezes, thereby preventing the flow of gas. There are in all about twenty-five lamps that will not turn, out of one hundred and fifty. I have thawed some out, but they have frozen up again in a day or two. The cost of thawing out is from 50 to 60 cents a lamp and as I have no alcohol, I thought I would let the water out, and let it freeze, and I would suggest to Third Ward that I think it is in error in regard to the lighting of the lamps during the whole of the winter, for